

Preparedness and Planning

States Demonstrate Advanced Ability to Protect the Public's Health in the Face of Threats and Emergencies

In its new publication, *States of Preparedness: Health Agency Progress 2006*, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has assembled a snapshot of the activities some states have undertaken in their efforts to build a public health system that can prepare and respond to any threat. Using examples from 12 state and local health agencies, the publication describes just a few of the countless activities taking place in states to prepare the nation for bioterrorist attacks, catastrophic natural disasters, and other public health threats and emergencies. Stories feature the response of state health agencies to events such as Hurricane Katrina, the 2006 mumps epidemic, and the 2004-05 influenza vaccine shortage. Other stories highlight how health agencies have improved their ability to prepare for and respond to a wide range of emergencies such as chemical and radiation leaks and threats to schools. Taken as a whole, the examples highlight the progress states have made in building up the nation's public health security in five short years.

Passport Requirements to Cross Canadian Border

In the October 27, 2006 issue of *The Guardian*, we reported the new documentation requirements for crossing the United States / Canadian border. The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will come into effect on June 1, 2009 and will alter the date from which a passport will be required. There has been some discrepancy on the dates from which a passport will be required, so they are reiterated here. According to the [U.S. Department of State's website](#), as of November 6, 2006...



- On January 8, 2007, all persons traveling by air between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda will be required to present a valid passport, Air NEXUS card, or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document.
- As early as January 1, 2008, all persons traveling between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea (including ferries), may be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. While recent legislative changes permit a later deadline, the Departments of State and Homeland Security are working to meet all requirements as soon as possible.

News

Pandemic Prospect Complicates COOP

The possible pandemic outbreak of a contagious disease could render many emergency management and continuity-of-operation (COOP) plans moot, according to a [panel of experts](#) who discussed the topic.

Flu Shots

The single best way to protect against the seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), October or November is the best time to get your flu vaccine. At the end of October, Michigan had no reported flu activity. However, the CDC reiterates that it is never too late and people can still get vaccinated in December and later. The American Lung Association has provided a [helpful resource](#) to help you find a flu clinic near you.

Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide

This [guide](#) builds and expands on an earlier document published by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) that explored these issues and outlined the principles associated with the provision of medical care in the face of an overwhelming numbers of casualties. This document is the product of collaboration between the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and AHRQ.

FDA Halts Test of Anthrax Vaccine

VaxGen Inc.'s \$877.5 million federal contract to produce a new anthrax vaccine hit another difficulty Friday that delayed delivery of the shots a third time and jeopardized the struggling company's future. The Food and Drug Administration is concerned the vaccine will lose its potency too fast to be effective and halted a pivotal human test of the experimental drug, the company said. VaxGen Chief Executive Officer Lance Gordon said company officials hoped to meet with FDA officials soon to discuss the agency's refusal to allow the human test to begin. Emergent BioSolutions Inc.'s BioPort Corporation in Lansing, Michigan, makes the nation's only FDA-approved anthrax vaccine. Privately owned Emergent, which has said it might have initial public offering this year, is building a \$75 million, 50,000-square-foot vaccine production facility on its Lansing campus.

Local Animal Response Plans

Studies indicate that pet owners, unless they can take their pets with them, may fail to evacuate an area even when there is a life-threatening situation looming. The recent disaster on the Gulf Coast brought animals to the forefront. Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Office of the State Veterinarian have developed a [template](#) that counties can use to develop a local animal response plan. The template includes not only pets and service animals but also livestock and exotic pets. While certainly not mandatory, counties should consider including MSUE in their plan because as a county department and key player in the farm animal arena, Extension could surely provide insights and assistance. To contact your local Extension agent, contact [your local MSUE office](#).



Food Safety During Power Outages

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has released a public service announcement (PSA) to help consumers keep food safe during bad weather. "[Food Safety During Power Outages](#)," is part of ongoing outreach efforts to raise awareness about the importance of food safety during times of power outages due to storms and other events. The PSA illustrates practical food safety recommendations for handling and consuming foods stored in refrigerators and freezers during, and after, a power outage. Visit [FSIS's website](#) for more information.

Pandemic

Are Americans Willing to Make Major Life Changes for PanFlu?

The latest national survey conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) [Project on the Public and Biological Security](#) finds that when faced with a serious outbreak of pandemic flu, a large majority of Americans are willing to make major changes in their lives and cooperate with public health officials' recommendations. However, the survey also finds that a substantial share of Americans would have no one to care for them if they become ill or would face serious financial problems if they had to stay home from work for a week or more.

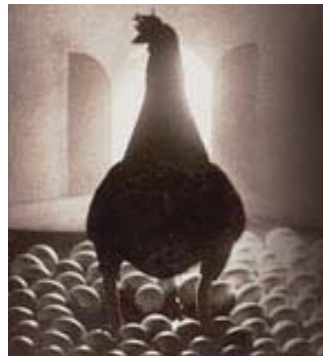
DOD's Pandemic Influenza Plan

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to examine the Department of Defense's (DOD's) pandemic influenza preparedness efforts. This report focuses on DOD's planning for its workforce, specifically actions DOD has taken to prepare and challenges DOD faces going forward. GAO analyzed guidance, contracts, and plans, and met with DOD officials.

According to the GAO, DOD faces four management challenges that it needs to address as it shifts its focus to the department as a whole. First, as of September 2006, DOD has not issued guidance defining lead and supporting roles and responsibilities in influenza pandemic planning efforts. Second, DOD has not yet requested funding for its pandemic influenza preparedness efforts linked to department-wide goals. It is unclear, with its current resources, whether DOD can address the tasks assigned to it in the national implementation plan and pursue its own preparedness efforts. Third, DOD has not defined or communicated to which personnel it plans to distribute vaccines and antivirals, nor has it developed a plan to communicate information on the safety and efficacy of vaccines and antivirals. Fourth, DOD has not developed its pandemic influenza communications strategy. While DOD established websites with some information on pandemic influenza, GAO identified unevenness across the department in terms of the information personnel received.

Bird Flu: A Virus of Our Own Hatching

"The threat of pandemic influenza is real, and we may need look no further than our own actions to explain why we're facing this grave situation." The new book, *Bird Flu*, attempts to unravel the knotted threads that weave the harrowing explanation of how and why a harmless intestinal virus of waterfowl has mutated into a human threat. It is important that each of us to understand the impact and influence our choices have had on both the natural world and public health, and to prepare within our families and communities to mediate the impact of the next pandemic. This book is published online and is available free-of-charge. On the website, readers can navigate through each of the 21 chapters from the table of contents on the left, access the more than 3,000 references, and search the content by topic index.



Communications

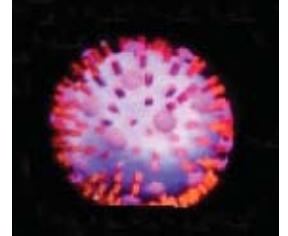
New Method to Notify Public of Avian Influenza

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior (DOI) are transitioning to a new method of notifying the public. In an effort to maintain transparency, they will post all future suspected low pathogenic H5N1 detections on the Internet. DOI will maintain a list of all such routine detections as part of the National Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Early Detection Data System (HEDDS). The Low Pathogenic H5N1 detection list can be [accessed online](#). In the event of a presumptive H5N1 test result involving a large number of sick or dead birds, or other circumstances that suggest the possibility of a highly pathogenic virus, the USDA and DOI will issue a news release or conduct a technical briefing to notify the media and the public.

Surveillance

New Sublineage of Avian Influenza Viruses in Southeast Asia

On October 30, 2006 in the *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science* reported the emergence of a new, previously uncharacterized H5N1 influenza virus sublineage in southern China. A virus from this sublineage was first identified in a duck specimen in the Chinese Fujian province in March 2005, and hence it is called the Fujian-like (FJ-like or FJ) H5N1 sublineage. The emergence of a new H5N1 sublineage and the increase in human infections in 2006 suggest that highly-pathogenic avian influenza viruses have not been effectively contained. H5N1 viruses continue to be panzootic. This new report highlights the inherent difficulty in controlling influenza: The virus mutates in a way that allows it to “escape” vaccine, especially when vaccines are poorly immunogenic or not effective against a broad range of strains.



Regional News

Region 5 – National Disaster Life Support Course Presented in Michigan for First Time

On September 25 - 27, Michigan State University / Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (MSU/KCMS), with instructors from several of Michigan's preparedness regions, presented the National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) Course in Michigan. The course combined the two-day Advanced Disaster Life Support Provider Course (ADLS) with a one-half day NDLS Instructor Course. The thirty-three participants who completed the course are now qualified to instruct both Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support to other Michigan healthcare responders.



This premier course was supported by the Regional Medical Bio-Defense Networks and the Michigan Department of Community Health. Participants came to the course with solid backgrounds in healthcare preparedness and experience providing instruction in preparedness programs or other related topics. Course participants represented seven of Michigan's eight preparedness regions. They included physicians, Registered Nurses and Licensed

Practical Nurses, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, medical first responders, and state & local public health representatives.

ADLS course topics included...

- MASS Triage™ - This challenging station allowed the students to practice the concepts of the disaster paradigm with an emphasis on patient triage. Simulated disaster victims required triage and treatment with management of a chaotic scene and use of appropriate resources.
- PPE and Decontamination - This station taught concepts about the use of personal protective equipment and decontamination techniques, using standardized equipment purchased through the HRSA BT preparedness program. Students were given the opportunity to wear PPE and participate

in a simulated decontamination while attempting to render medical care.

- Disaster Skills - This station taught important information about vital skills necessary for medical disaster management. Students were taught vital information about the Strategic National Stockpile, proper use of Mark-I nerve agent antidote kits, and practiced the administration of Smallpox immunizations.
- Human Patient Simulators were used to teach and practice recognition of chemical and biological exposure symptoms. The use of these high fidelity simulators allowed students to see, hear and feel information that would otherwise be provided by an instructor, but provided a more realistic experience than normal manikins would allow.
- Michigan Specific Topics: This course included topics specific to Michigan's Healthcare Preparedness initiatives implemented during the last four years. These included MEDDRUN, CHEMPAC, MI-HAN, the MPSCS radio system, Regional Response Team Network, Community Health Emergency Coordination Center (CHECC), Modular Emergency Medical System, and the 51st Civil Support Team.



Most of the instructors previously attended the Medical College of Georgia's NDLS instructor training in spring 2006 with the specific intent that they would return to present the course to other Michigan responders. MSU/KCMS has now been designated as a Regional NDLS Training Center and will assist course participants with resource, administrative, organizational, and instructional support for future offerings of the course in Michigan's other preparedness regions.

Training & Education

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Nov. 14, 2006	Multiple Benefits Solutions for Enhanced Building Security This broadcast will inform the audience of the many efforts that can be taken to reduce vulnerability to terrorist acts that also provide reduced vulnerability to natural and accidental incidents, and may provide improvements in reliability, safety, comfort, energy use, and operating cost of the building and its systems.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Nov. 15, 2006	Live Response - Port Security The United States is served by more than 360 commercial ports that provide approximately 3,200 cargo and passenger handling facilities. Keeping our ports secure, without slowing down trade, commerce, or passenger service is a challenge. The layered defense of port security on this edition of Live Response will be explored.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Nov. 16, 2006 or Nov. 29, 2006	Effects of Radiological Agents This course will include topics such as signs and symptoms of acute radiation syndrome, triage tools, detection and protection, patient decontamination, blocking agents and psychosocial aspects of radiological emergencies. Go to the Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness website for more information and to register.	Dearborn, MI or Grand Rapids, MI
Nov. 30, 2006 10am-12pm	Performance or Capacity Assessment and Accreditation of Public Health Departments This live webcast will provide overviews of the Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program, Michigan's participation in the Multi-State Learning Collaborative, and Michigan's Accreditation enhancement products. To register, please visit the Michigan Public Health Institute website .	Live Webcast
Nov. 30, 2006 10am-2pm	Earth, Wind, Fire, Flu... What's the Lab Got to Do with It? This course aims to: identify operational and communication issues that need to be addressed in preparedness planning, discuss current regional trends and emergent diseases report to the local health departments, discuss critical services provided by your facility that would need to be maintained in a public health emergency. Please register on MITRAIN .	Centerpoint Marriott 3600 Centerpoint Pkwy Pontiac, MI 48341 (248) 253-9800
Nov. 30, 2006 1pm-3:30pm	Reducing Risk Factors at Retail and Food Service This program will focus on the topic of reducing risk factors in retail food stores and food service facilities. The goal of this program is to improve the ability of regulators and industry to reduce the occurrence of risk factors and foodborne illness at retail establishments.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Dec. 4-5, 2006	Workshop Series: Practical Aspects of Pandemic Flu Planning Sponsored by UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters, please visit their website for workshop details.	Hilton - LA Univ. City, CA 91608
Dec. 7, 2006	Adult Immunization Update An annual update highlighting current and late-breaking immunization issues. For more information visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website .	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Dec. 13, 2006 2pm-3pm	ComNet Featured stories include: Intelligence Fusion and Analysis, Improvised Explosive Devices; Detection of Bio-Threat Agents, WMD Radiological Nuclear Course for Hazardous Materials Technicians.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Dec. 13-14, 2006	Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference This conference will cover all aspects of emergency management planning and response for people with disabilities, the elderly, pediatric populations, and animal issues. National experts to discuss changes in policies, legislation, response protocols, workplace safety, and disaster management. New concepts for addressing disability planning and "best practices" will be explored.	Omni Shoreham 2500 Calvert St NW Washington, DC 20008 (202) 234-0700

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Dec. 18, 2006	B965 Fundamentals of Health Care Emergency Management This course includes an overview of relevant standards, regulations and organizations; integration with agencies and stakeholders; ICS as it applies to healthcare; plans and the planning the process; facility and personnel preparedness; exercises and training; surge and related mass casualty issues, recovery, and finances and reimbursement. Please see the IEMC website for more information.	Noble Training Cntr Anniston, AL
Jan. 11, 2007	Faith and Recovery: The Healing Role of Faith-Based Organizations Those who lean on their faith in difficult times may seek help for their addiction from clergy and faith-based organizations, but what help will they find? This broadcast contains personal stories about people in recovery and interviews from treatment providers and others in the field who help make recovery possible.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
May 8-11, 2007	Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo "Coming Together Under One Umbrella" The combined effort of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division, the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness, the Michigan Emergency Management Association, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will provide a broad range of top-rated speakers, hands-on workshop sessions, an expanded exhibit hall and networking opportunities. Watch for additional information on the MSP-EMHSD website .	Devos Place 303 Monroe Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 742-6500

* For all events at OPHP, please call to schedule at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event.



Mailing Address:
 Office of Public Health Preparedness
 Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913
 (517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>

